

REMARKS

Applicants filed a Preliminary Amendment canceling claims 1-102 and adding claims 103-136 on October 25, 2002. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants herein file a Supplementary Preliminary Amendment canceling claims 103-109 and 118-134. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims 103-109 and 118-134, without prejudice, in a continuation application. Applicants also herein amend claims 110-117 to place them in independent form, and amend claim 135 to reflect the current amendments to other claims. Claim 136 is an original claim as presented in the Preliminary Amendment. Accordingly, claims 110-117 and 135-136 are pending.

Applicants respectfully assert that claims 110-117 and 135-136 are allowable. In support, Applicants enclose herein a copy of an office action dated December 8, 1997,¹ in which the Examiner stated that claims 68-73, 79, and 80 of a parent case (08/382,317) to the present case,² were allowed. Presently amended claims 110-117 correspond to prior claims 68-73, 79, and 80.³ The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' representative if necessary to further prosecution of claims 110-117 and 135-136. Claims 135 and 136 find support in the application as filed; see, e.g., pages 40-46 and Examples 7-13.

In light of all of the above, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 110-117 and 135-136.

¹ See Exhibit A, attached hereto.

² See Preliminary Amendment, filed October 25, 2002, setting forth the related application data and priority claim.

³ For the correspondence of the claims, see the table below.

Claim Number in 08/382,317	Present Claim Number
68	110
69	112
70	113
71	114
72	111
73	115
79	116
80	117

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